**To Kill a Mockingbird Music Connection**

**(Be sure to cite)**

**“Strange Fruit” by Billie Holiday**

Southern trees bear strange fruit  
Blood on the leaves  
Blood at the root  
Black bodies swinging in the southern breeze  
Strange fruit hanging from the poplar trees 5  
Pastoral scene of the gallant south  
The bulging eyes and the twisted mouth  
The scent of magnolia sweet and fresh  
Then the sudden smell of burning flesh  
Here is a fruit for the crows to pluck 10  
for the rain to gather  
for the wind to suck  
for the sun to rot  
for the tree to drop  
Here is a strange and bitter crop

**RESPONSE #1**: Consider the following questions and write a detailed paragraph in the space provided.

* What is the social context of this song?
* What is your reaction to the song?
* What is the “strange fruit” in this song?
* Why do you think the writer made that comparison?
* What contrasts do you find in these lyrics?
* What do these lyrics remind you of in *To Kill a Mockingbird*? Be specific and explain.

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**(Be sure to cite)**

**“Blackbird” by The Beatles**

Blackbird singing in the dead of night  
Take these broken wings and learn to fly  
All your life  
You were only waiting for this moment to arise.  
  
Blackbird singing in the dead of night  
Take these sunken eyes and learn to see  
All your life  
You were only waiting for this moment to be free.  
  
Blackbird fly Blackbird fly  
Into the light of the dark black night.  
  
Blackbird fly Blackbird fly  
Into the light of the dark black night.  
  
Blackbird singing in the dead of night  
Take these broken wings and learn to fly  
All your life  
You were only waiting for this moment to arise  
You were only waiting for this moment to arise  
You were only waiting for this moment to arise.

**Response #2**: Consider the following questions and write a detailed paragraph in the space provided.

* What is the social context of this song?
* What is your reaction to the song?
* What is the “blackbird” in this song?
* Why do you think the writer(s) made that comparison?
* Discuss one literary element in the song that you find in these lyrics?
* What do these lyrics remind you of in *To Kill a Mockingbird*? Be specific and explain.

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